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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry

180 Canfield Street
Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

File Code: 3400

Date: July 10, 2009

Mr. Howard Schlagel, Refuge Manager
Cape May National Wildlife Refuge
24 Kimbles Beach Road
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210

On June 16, 2009, I conducted an aerial detection survey for gypsy moth-caused tree defoliation at Cape May National Wildlife Refuge. Although no defoliation was detected on the northern half of the Refuge, approximately 13.8 acres of light defoliation (30-50%) and 15.2 acres of heavy defoliation (51-100%) were detected on the southern half of the Refuge (Figure 1). Approximately 2.7 acres of light defoliation were detected within this years gypsy moth treatment areas. An additional 15.2 acres of light defoliation and 5.9 acres of heavy defoliation were detected in the vicinity of the Refuge.

It is likely that gypsy moth defoliation would have been more severe and widespread without the presence of the fungal pathogen *Entomophaga maimaiga*. This pathogen is usually prevalent during wet and cool Springs like the one that we just experienced. The impacts of *Entomophaga maimaiga* have been highly variable from year to year and are difficult to predict.

We will be conducting gypsy moth egg mass surveys this Fall in all six of the treatment areas.

If you anticipate requesting either financial or technical assistance for gypsy moth control in 2010, please contact Brad Onken (304) 285-1546 or me (304) 285-1555 before August 21, 2009.

Please contact me at the above number if you have any questions regarding this aerial survey letter.

Sincerely,

RODNEY L. WHITEMAN
Forester
Forest Health Protection

Cc: Allen Carter, Regional Forester, USDI F&WS
Joe Zoltowski, NJDA
George Koeck, NJDF
Robert Lueckel, MFO



Figure 1. -- Results of the aerial survey conducted at Cape May NWR (Southern half) on June 16, 2009, along with the gypsy moth treatment blocks.

